

C L A I M S

1. An artery holder for use in connection with heart
5 surgery, **characterized in** that it comprises
- a gripping and fixing member (1) including two
mutually interacting first and second clamp elements
(9, 10) being arranged for gripping muscle tissue (4),
that encloses an artery (5), in connection with a cut
10 end (7) of the artery (5), and for clamping muscle
tissue (4) while simultaneously fixing the artery (5)
and exposing said cut end (7),
 - a spring member (2) being arranged to actuate the
gripping and fixing member (1) with a predetermined
15 spring force in order to achieve said clamping of the
muscle tissue (4), and
 - an actuating member (3) being arranged to actuate the
gripping and fixing member (1) against the action of
the spring force from the spring member (2) in order
20 to open the clamp elements (9, 10) for enabling
reception of muscle tissue (4) therebetween and
subsequent release of clamped muscle tissue (4).
2. An artery holder according to claim 1,
25 **characterized in** that the first clamp element (9), being
intended to be located closest to the cut artery end (7),
has a central recess (15) at its end edge (11), said
recess being open forwards and being defined by two
tongues (16, 17) projecting forwards, and being arranged
30 for receiving a portion of the artery (5) when inclining
the artery holder in relation to the artery (5), whereas
the second clamp element (10) has a straight end edge
(12) arranged for supporting against the artery (5)
during said inclining of the artery holder.

3. An artery holder according to claim 2,
characterized in that said recess (15) is V-shaped.

4. An artery holder according to any one of claims 1-3,
5 **characterized in** that the gripping and fixing member (1),
the spring member (2) and the actuating member (3) are
formed by first and second co-operating structural
elements (20, 21) being connected to each other by means
of an attachment member (22) delimiting the gripping and
10 fixing member (1) from the actuating member (3), said
first structural element (20) thereby having the first
clamp element (9) and said second structural element (21)
having the second clamp element (10).

15 5. An artery holder according to claim 4,
characterized in that the first structural element (20)
consists of a bent and curved spring plate, including an
arc-shaped portion forming as well said actuating member
(3) as said spring member (2).

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